

28 December 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

THROUGH : Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT : Comparison of US and USSR Electric Power
Generating Plants

1. The attached tables, comparing US with USSR electric power generating plants, have been prepared following our conversation last week. No attempt has been made to document this material, but substantiating information is available if required. The US figures are based largely on records of the Federal Power Commission, while those for the USSR are based on studies by AFOTV, [REDACTED], and the records of the Electric Power Branch of the Materials Division. In order to provide this statement in a condensed form, it was necessary to make certain assumptions and some arbitrary minor groupings, but error due to these causes is not believed to be significant.

2. The ratio of hydro to thermal capacity in both countries is virtually the same - about one to four.

3. With respect to concentration of capacity, the 97 largest USSR plants account for over 53 per cent of the national total. Of these 97, there are 9 large hydro plants, and 11 smaller ones. In the United States, the 109 largest plants account for 36.5 per cent of total capacity. Of these 109 plants, 16 are hydro. In these gross terms, the USSR electric power industry would appear to be somewhat more concentrated than the counterpart U.S. industry. This is, of course, only one facet of a vulnerability determination.

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